

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT NEWSPAPERS

50 CENTS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

VOL. 81, NO. 41 9/10/07 ● FINAL

Iraq pullout delay urged

6-month extension reportedly sought by top commander

By Michael R. Gordon
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The top American commander in Iraq, Gen. David H. Petraeus, has recommended that decisions on the contentious issue of reducing the main body of the American troops in Iraq be put off for six months, American officials said yesterday.

Gen. Petraeus, whose long-awaited testimony before Congress will begin today, has informed President Bush that troop cuts may begin in mid-December, with the withdrawal of an American combat brigade, about 4,000 troops. By mid-July, the American force in Iraq might be down to 15 combat brigades, the force level in Iraq before Mr. Bush's troop reinforcement plan.

The precise timing of such reductions, which would leave about 130,000 troops in Iraq, would depend on conditions in the country. But the general has also said that it is too soon to present recommendations on reducing American forces below that level and has suggested that

SEE **TROOPS**, PAGE A-3

Domestic abuse by police gets city hearing

By Rich Lord,
Jonathan D. Silver
and Torsten Ove
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

David R. Thomas, the star speaker at today's Pittsburgh City Council meeting on domestic abuse and policing, believes in thorough investigations, consistent discipline and a safety-first approach when officers are accused of violence against family members.

He'll take that message to council members and police administrators in a city where investigations and discipline are shrouded and officers subject to protection-from-abuse orders are not always barred from carrying guns.

The issue of police domestic abuse came to the fore in June, when three out of four officers promoted at the same time were found to have faced allegations or investigations in the past.

At least 34 city police officers currently on the job have been accused of stalking, threatening, and verbally or physically abusing their spouses, significant others, former domestic partners or a family member.

The allegations against the officers were discovered by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in a

SEE **POLICE**, PAGE A-6

THE TOMLIN ERA

Steelers crush Browns in debut



Peter Diana/Post-Gazette

Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger talks with head coach Mike Tomlin after being sacked during the Steelers' 34-7 win over the Browns yesterday in Cleveland. For more coverage of the game, see **NFLXtra**, **Section D** and visit **post-gazette.com**

A memorable win for new coach, but...

By Bob Smizik
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

From a historical perspective, the dawning of the Mike Tomlin era will go down as mon-
strously successful as the Steel-
ers steamrolled the Cleveland
Browns yesterday, dominating
in all phases of the game.

The operative words in that
sentence are these: Cleveland
Browns.

Which means, from a realis-
tic perspective, this 34-7 thrash-
ing yesterday at Cleveland
Browns Stadium was a memo-
rable NFL debut for Tomlin,
but virtually
meaningless.

Teams that
play like the
Steelers did in their opener are
serious Super Bowl contenders,
unless, that is, the opposition is
of a hapless bent. The Browns
were that, and more. In the first
quarter alone, they offered up a
botched punt, an interception
and a fumble to give the Steelers
17 easy points. It was hard for
the Browns to get much worse
from that point, but they hardly
got better.

The Steelers defense totally
stymied the Cleveland rushing
game, limiting it to 46 yards
on 16 carries. Two Cleveland
quarterbacks were sacked six
times. Although they combined
to throw for 218 yards, most of
that was done on desperation
heaves. Ben Roethlisberger
threw four touchdown passes
and Willie Parker ran for 109
yards. Except for a sputtering
second quarter, it was a near-
flawless performance.

The obvious question of the
day was this: Are the Steelers
that good or are the Browns
that bad?

"I thought we did a good job
of making them look bad," said
inside linebacker James Far-

COMMENT

Sunrise residents always brightened on Game Day

By Dan Majors
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Steelers fans may age, but beating the Browns never gets old.

That was true in family rooms, taverns and every-
where Steelers fans gathered
yesterday to cheer their
team to a season-opening 34-
7 victory over division rival
Cleveland.

And it was equally true at
the Sunrise Senior Living
Center on Greentree Road in

Green Tree, where almost
two dozen "seasoned" Steel-
ers fans congregated in the
activities room.

Christine Buffkin, the
activity and volunteer coordi-
nator for the center, made
sure that everything was per-
fect for the occasion, decking
the room with black-and-gold
streamers, balloons and ban-
ners.

"We love to decorate," she
said. "The residents all help.
We decorate the wheelchairs
and everything."

Like any gathering of Steel-
ers fans, there were pompoms,
Terrible Towels, snacks and a
big-screen television turned
up nice and loud. There were
some bottles of beer on ice,
but most of the residents pre-
ferred a little wine or ginger
ale.

The average age of the 80-
plus residents at the assisted-
living center is about 85, Ms.
Buffkin said. The residents
have their own units, where
they can watch the games if
they choose, but for special

occasions such as playoffs or
the season-opener, the atmo-
sphere in the activities center
is particularly festive.

"Sundays are popular
days for families to visit, so
some residents watch it in
their rooms," Ms. Buffkin
said. "But this is a big game,
and we like to get them more
involved. Even the people who
don't like football come down
for the snacks."

All the staff members at the

SEE **SUNRISE**, PAGE A-5

SEE **SMIZIK**, PAGE A-5



John Heller/Post-Gazette

THE PALMER RESERVE Golfing legend Arnold Palmer holds his great-granddaughter, 2-month-old Charlotte Spears, at the official dedication yesterday of a nature reserve named for his late wife, Winnie Palmer, at Saint Vincent College near Latrobe. Mrs. Palmer was involved in the effort to prevent commercial development of the site when she died in 1999.

Investment pitches hook unwary seniors

Feds find seminars disguise agendas

By Marcy Gordon
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An investigation by federal and state regulators of "free lunch" investment seminars aimed at seniors has found high-pressure sales pitches masquerading as educational sessions, pervasive misleading claims for unsuit-
able financial products, and even fraud.

Much of the blame goes to investment firms for failing to properly supervise their employ-
ees who put on the seminars for seniors, according to the report of the investigation being made public today. By law, the sales pitches made at the seminars and the materials provided to participants must be approved by a brokerage or investment

firm's supervisors.

The examination by the Secu-
rities and Exchange Commis-
sion, state regulators and the
securities industry's self-polic-
ing organization, the Financial
Industry Regulatory Authority,
covered seven states that have
large numbers of retirees: Ala-
bama, Arizona, California,
Florida, North Carolina, South
Carolina and Texas.

The investigation, which ran
from April 2006 to June 2007,
focused on 110 investment firms
and branch offices that sponsor
sales seminars with free meals.

SEC Chairman Christopher
Cox called the investigation's
findings "a wake-up call for
securities regulators, the finan-
cial-services industry and, espe-

SEE **PITCHES**, PAGE A-2

A familiar, contrary Specter shows up in defense of Craig

By Jerome L. Sherman
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

WASHINGTON — He didn't have to say anything. But he did.

One day after Sen. Larry Craig announced his intention to resign, his colleague, Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, said on "Fox News Sunday"

that he would like to see Mr. Craig "fight" charges of disorderly conduct stemming from a police sex sting in an airport bathroom.

"I'd like to see Larry Craig go back to court, seek to withdraw his guilty plea and fight the case," Mr. Specter, a Republican, said on the Sept. 2 show. "I've had some experience in these

kinds of matters since my days as Philadelphia district attorney, and with the evidence, Sen. Craig wouldn't be convicted of anything."

At least publicly, few people came to the defense of Mr. Craig, R-Idaho, the latest Washington lawmaker to become ensnared in a flood of scandals.

Mr. Specter himself quickly

quieted down on the issue when a crush of reporters followed him around Capitol Hill in the middle of last week.

But why would the five-term senator even risk taking a position in the Craig case when most of his colleagues were running the other way?

Longtime Specter observ-
ers say it's a sign of the former

prosecutor's principles and legal expertise.

"Arlen is a gutsy guy," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who sits on the Senate Judiciary Committee with Mr. Specter. "And he's a very good lawyer. I have no doubt that if Arlen tried the case he would win it."

SEE **SPECTER**, PAGE A-5



Arlen Specter



Weather
An early shower,
some sunshine.
High 78, low 64.
Page B-8

Bridge **D-10**
Business **E-7**
Classified **D-11, F-1**
Comics **C-4**
Crosswords **D-10**
Ruth Ann Dailey **A-2**

Editorials **B-6**
Horoscope **D-10**
Local News **B-1**
Lottery **B-2**
Magazine **C-1**
My Generation **C-5**

Movies **C-3**
Obituaries **B-3**
Scoreboard **E-6**
Sheriff's Sale **A-6**
Sports **E-1**
Television **C-6**

post-gazetteNOW
The NFL season is under way, but you can still sign up to compete in our Weekly Fantasy Football Challenge. Visit **post-gazette.com/FantasyFootball**